

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image transfer apparatus for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer apparatus comprising:

order estimating means for estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; [[and]]

image data transfer means for transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating means; and

transfer-enable-signal receiving means for receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer means is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving means indicates that an image data block estimated by said order estimating means to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer means transfers the image data block, and when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving means indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer means transfers another image data block which is transferable.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image transfer method for use in a host computer for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer method comprising:

an order estimating step of estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; [[and]]

an image data transfer step of transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating step; and

a transfer-enable-signal receiving step of receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer step is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that an image data block estimated by said order estimating step to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer step transfers the image data block, and when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer step transfers another image data block which is transferable.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium and executed by a host computer for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said computer program comprising:

an order estimating step of estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; [[and]]

an image data transfer step of transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating step; and

a transfer-enable-signal receiving step of receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer step is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that an image data block estimated by said order estimating step to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer step transfers the image data block, and when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer step transfers another image data block which is transferable.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image transfer method for transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of a color page to a printer for forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer method comprising:

estimating the order for outputting the image data blocks of the plurality of color planes of the color page to the printer; [[and]]

transferring the image data blocks to the printer in the estimated order; and

receiving from the printer a signal to indicate whether an image data block is transferable,

wherein, when the signal indicates that the image data block estimated to be located at the head of the order is transferable, the image data block is transferred, and when the signal indicates that the image data block is not transferable, another image data block, which is transferable is transferred.

8. (Canceled)